

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of August 22, 2005**

- 1. Community Center - Open Exhibit (City-Wide):** The Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting entries for the exhibit planned to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Community Center. Artists - both professional or nonprofessional - who live or work in Takoma Park are encouraged to participate. If you, a family member, or someone you know would be interested in participating, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or call Sara Anne Daines at 301.891.7224. Additional information can be found on the City's website at <http://www.takomagov.org/ahccall.pdf> *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 2. CDBG Applications Due Monday, August 22 (City Wide):** Don't forget that applications for funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program are due by 5:00 pm on Monday, August 22, 2005. Funding is available for projects that benefit persons of low and moderate income or that provided benefits to low and moderate income neighborhoods. Additional information can be found on the City's website at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org) *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 3. Carroll Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Wards 1 & 3):** Work continued on the north and south side of Carroll Avenue this week with the installation of brickwork, sidewalk, driveway aprons, and steps. Next week the Contractor will be scheduling subcontractors to lower the water meters, exposed gas line, and to begin work on 7118 Carroll Avenue. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 4. Laurel Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Wards 1 & 3):** This Sunday, August 21st, there will be a "Party at the Market" to celebrate the Farmer's Market return to Laurel Avenue. The Rhodes Tavern Troubadour, a popular local band, will be playing. There will be other fun and games, including drawings for prizes from local stores. This week the bollards were installed, however, work remains includes meter adjustments, installation of bike racks, and an additional curb ramp. The installation of the landscaping will not be until late fall or early winter as trees and landscaping have higher survival rates when planted in colder rainy weather. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 5. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6):** The tenants residing at Hampshire Towers met on Monday 8/15 to formalize their establishment of a Tenants' Association. Tenants from 152 apartments have so far agreed to be a part of this group, which is more than the 1/3 required by the Takoma Park Code. Notification of the formation of the group will be sent to the City, the County and the Owner. At this meeting, an executive board of 11 members was elected. This smaller group will meet regularly to continue the process of hiring an attorney to assist the tenants' association in their effort to exercise their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 6. Landlord-Tenant Affairs (All Wards):** The annual rent stabilization reports were mailed last week to owners and agents having 2 or more rental units in Takoma Park. Landlords have until September 30, 2005 to re- submit the completed rent reports to the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs. The reports will show the changes in rent that occurred during the July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 recording period. Landlords not submitting the report on time or submitting a false report are subject to municipal infractions. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**7. Affordable Housing (All Wards):** Notification of the Montgomery County Housing Fair is being published in the Newsletter and will be promoted to the community in the coming weeks. This annual event, which will be held on October 1, 2005 in Gaithersburg, Md. (Bohrer Park) has been well attended by Takoma Park residents as it has a wealth of information for first time home buyers under one roof. The State of Maryland, the Housing Opportunities Commission, an assortment of non-profit organizations, lenders and real estate agents all have exhibits at the Fair. Additionally, this year the County is promoting the Fair as a Consumer Protection Day. There will be an emphasis on how residents can protect themselves from consumer scams and frauds, which have increased dramatically in the local area. For further information, call Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**8. Philadelphia Avenue Crosswalk at Old Philadelphia (Ward 1):** The State Highway Administration installed additional striping and pedestrian paddles to the Philadelphia Avenue mid-block crossing near Old Philadelphia Avenue. The paddles remind drivers that State law requires vehicles to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. SHA plans to install similar paddles at additional mid-block crosswalks. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Health Fair:** The Annual Washington Association to Tend to the Concerns of Haitians (WATTCH) health fair will be taking place at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on Aug. 21, 11a - 5p. This fair caters to low income families by providing them with testing, physicals and a wider range of health issues and information FREE of charge! *(Recreation)*

**10. New Recreation Programs:** The Recreation Department summer programs have all been completed. We added three new camp programs: a theater program and two tot programs in addition to our three camp programs traditionally offered. The Outreach division took 33 kids on an overnight camp in Summit Lake. There was fishing, hiking, team building, camp fire and much more. The fall brochure will include many new programs to be held in the new space in the community center. Look for the brochure in the September version of the City newsletter, due out at the end of August. *(Recreation)*

**11. Officers in Training and Conferences:** One officer was assigned this week as an assistant in the Top Gun school for investigating and prosecuting drug cases offered by the Maryland State Police and the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center. Three officers attended a one-day training at Johns Hopkins University, "ID Theft: Train the Trainer." Cpl. Jackson attended a one-day regional conference of police recruiters. *(Police)*

**12. Charles Prince of TPVFD:** Chief Creamer presented a certificate of appreciation to TPVFD Deputy Chief Charles Prince in recognition of his 50 years of service to the city and the assistance he had provided the Police in that service. The presentation was made at the hospital, when it was announced that the reception for Deputy Chief Prince was postponed due to his ill-health. *(Police)*

**13. Other Duties (Ward 4):** Sgt. Gilbert of the COP team has been working with city and other youth at the Blair High School football camp; he will continue with the team as an assistant coach through the season. Ofc. Tina Smith is working with the county and state to accomplish repair of the sinkhole that developed in July off Piney Branch Road by the Middle School (Ward 4) or to make the site safer if repairs cannot be accomplished before school begins. *(Police)*

**14. Police Academy Graduation:** Chief Creamer, Capt. Coursey and Ofc. Gaskin of the recruiting team attended the graduation of the Prince George's Municipal Police Academy at the PG Community College. Three of the graduates took and passed the Department's oral board today, moving into the background phase of the hiring process. Additional uncommitted graduates of that program also are being recruited actively. *(Police)*

**15. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2, 3 & 6):** Approximately half of the week's traffic enforcement has been carried out on New Hampshire Avenue and adjacent neighborhood streets adjacent to Langley Park. *(Police)*

**16. Street Restoration (Wards 1 & 6):** Takoma Avenue from New York Avenue to Piney Branch Rd was paved on Thursday and Friday (Ward 1). Concrete curb replacement continues on Lockney Avenue and is expected to go on through next week. (Ward 6) City crews completed a road patch on Boyd Avenue. *(Public Works)*

**17. Adjustment to Friday Collection due to Employee Appreciation Day (Ward 6):** The trash and recycling routes for most of the Friday route on August 26 will be rescheduled to Saturday, August 26 to enable the staff of the sanitation division to participate in the event. Two areas of the City east of New Hampshire will receive collection on Friday as usual. (Erskine Avenue, 13th Avenue & Place, Elson St. & Court and Kentland, Hopewell and 1100 Larch Avenue), the rest will have collection on Saturday. *(Public Works)*